The 18th APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF-18)

Virtual/Online Meeting, 24 - 26 August 2021

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background / Context

The recent ICTs represented by 5G, AI, Cloud and IoT are rapidly bring changes of human life by accelerating not only the development of ICT field but also the convergence with other industries. It can be regarded a new solution to promote ICT environment and show an effective way to close the digital gap. In this respect, the role of the APT Telecommunication/ ICT Development Forum (ADF), a venue for sharing knowledge of new ICT technology and introducing the ICT convergence projects becomes more important. Since its first organization in 2007, ADF has contributed to expanding the communication connectivity of rural areas and local communities, while increasing the efficiency of existing traditional industries through ICT in the Asia-Pacific region. This has been accomplished by discussing the common interests of the Asia-Pacific region related to ICT, sharing knowledge and experience about conducting an ICT convergence pilot project to address challenges of the region and increase productivity. This year, the ADF-18 picks up the following points and sets the thematic sessions accordingly.

First, as the impact of COVID-19 continues around the world, access to digital infrastructure becomes more important. In particular, the infrastructure that can access the Internet is the most critical factor in almost every aspect of responding to the current situation, which is the information related to disease, online learning systems, e-commerce and tools that are enabling people to work from home. These changes in the environment are raising interest and necessity for low-cost and efficient broadband deployment. Although a high percentage of the world's population lives in 4G coverage, even in 2020, half of the total population in the Asia-Pacific region is in an environment where accessible, available and affordable Internet is difficult. In this context, we will discuss how it can be addressed, and what role the government's policy can play. A useful and feasible way to lessen digital gap will be discussed in the aspects of reliability, affordability and quality of service as well as cost-efficient network in this ADF-18.

Second, recently, as the cost of launching satellites has been lowered due to the development of launch vehicle technology and space development attempts implemented by various countries, interest in communication networks through Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites is increasing. The Asia-Pacific region may be a market with high potential for the LEO satellites companies due to its high population density, diverse geographic circumstances including mountainous terrain and remoted islands, and undeveloped regions distributed over a large area. In ADF-18, we will look at the recent technology and industry status of LEO communication satellite as one of the possible ways to provide connectivity and discuss the practical impact on the communications environment in the Asia-Pacific region. Given the rapid spread of mobile in the Asia-Pacific region in recent years and the last mile connectivity issues that have been

raised continuously, the success of the satellite network in the future could be a new key to solving the communications demand in the Asia-Pacific region.

Third, as indicated by many statistical figures and experts' forecasts, the combination of edge computing networks, new connecting technology and IoT deployments are predicting the explosive growth of the IoT market in the Asia-Pacific region within a few years. Much of this growth is expected to be driven by increased investments in 4G/LTE and 5G, reduced IoT sensor costs and various government initiatives. In ADF-18, we will share the efforts and experiences of the government of countries in Asia-Pacific Region to improve productivity and quality of life by integrating IoT systems, broadband connectivity and edge computing in various industries such as smart city, manufacturing, and transportation.

In addition to the above points, as a normal practice, ADF-18 will also include presentations on the current status and outcomes of the EBC projects which were formulated to address specific needs as a country specific assistance to APT Member administrations.

This ADF-18 is going to be conducted as a virtual meeting due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic situation. However with the virtue of ICT, ADF-18 can be arranged across geographical distances.

2. Objectives

The overall objectives of ADF in 2021 which is approved by the MC-44 in December 2020 are 1) Focus on the telecommunication/ICT development issues for developing countries, 2) Provide an opportunity for members to share information on the best practices and experiences 3) Promote sharing of expertise for addressing key issues on telecommunication/ICT development issues.

Based on the overall objectives, specific objectives of ADF-18 were identified to:

- Discuss effective policies to deliver affordable and meaningful connectivity to unserved people in Asia-Pacific region based on countries' status;
- Explain the current status and potential of the Low Earth Orbit satellite communication industry and discuss what needs to be prepared for coping with new environment;
- Introduce how to configure inexpensive and efficient systems including mobile/fixed networks, and learn about recent network construction cases in various countries;
- Address and discuss issues related to cases and effects of IoT proliferation through government support and corporate investment in Asia-Pacific region;
- Report outcomes and achievements of APT projects via Extra-Budgetary Contributions(EBCs).

3. Expected outcomes

The agenda of the ADF-18 covers the list of topics to discuss on the specific outcomes include but not limited to:

- Analyze the situation of digital gap and discuss the way to develop policies to deliver affordable and meaningful connectivity in Asia-Pacific region;
- Understand the current status and potential of the Low Earth Orbit Satellite communication industry and identify points to be prepared in terms of policies;
- Understand various techniques and cases for efficient network construction;
- Understand the technologies currently applied to IoT, share experiences of effective cases, and obtain inspiration/idea on how to use IoT in each ICT environment;
- Share knowledge and experience of the current progress and achievements about the recent EBC projects.

4. Timing and location

The 18th APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum(ADF-18) will be held as a 3-day event via virtual meeting using Zoom. It will be from 10:30 AM – 15:00 PM(UTC+7) during 24-26 August 2021.

5. Participation

All APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International/Regional Organization, and Eligible Non-Members can participate in the ADF-18 utilizing APT Zoom.

Participants will be provided with APT Zoom meeting link, meeting ID and password. Participants shall logon to meeting URL at the designated time and date. In order to have proper audio experience during the meeting, participants shall be equipped with headset containing speaker and microphone. APT requests all participants to kindly follow our guidelines in attending online meeting provided in an Introduction to APT Zoom meeting document.

6. Contact persons:

For any further information about ADF-18, please contact to:

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